

NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTHWEST GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRIES

Feb. 25th, 2015

MIKE'S KIDS PROJECT AGAIN TOUCHES LIVES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RIO GRANDE!!!

On December 11th a huge 18 wheeler pulled up in front of the storage building at Bayview. Feliberto quickly called in lots of help, promising lunch for a lot of hard work! The volunteers got to work, unloading box after box of toys, clothes, food and more from churches of Texas. Then the real work began, calling in Pastors, ministry leaders, mission groups and more, the excellent selection process started to make all ready for Christmas. The Children's Home (formally called the Orphanage) was contacted and the Director, Lorena started making a list of wishes and dreams from the children there. Pastor Daniel lined up needs at the fishing villages in Mexico where he takes rice and beans. When all settles almost all of the gifts trucked in were spoken for. Volunteers put items in black trash bags and put the child's name on them. Bayview looked like a Christmas ant hill with folks coming and going, all in the Spirit of God's Love. You can know that the money you send to keep the staff paid, the lights on, the phones going, the gas tanks filled and Bayview functional works to make God proud and Jesus famous, especially at Christmas.



HO! HO! HO!

Another Blessed Christmas in the Valley because of the ministry of Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries and you who keep us going!



Feliberto and his lovely bride Mica had quite a 31st wedding anniversary on Valentine's Day. They received a call about a woman and her three year old son Carlos, asylum seekers from Cuba. In a bus station with nothing but the clothes on their backs, this pair had suffered greatly through their long journey. The mother reported receiving good treatment by the U.S. border authorities, but she had nothing left for getting to her cousin in Florida. They had been three nights at the bus station, relying on the kindness of strangers for some food.

Feliberto and Mica picked up the mother and child, and the four of them shared an anniversary meal. Mica opened their home to the refugees, knowing that the child would be happy there sharing toys and company with the Pereira grandson Santiago. Not long before, Carlos had come to believe that his home was the jail cell where he and his mother were detained for 50 days by Mexican authorities at the border with Guatemala. Santiago quickly took Carlos under wing as an older brother would, sharing toys and even offering his piggy bank money to Carlos and his mother. Mother and child received loving care, lodging, food, clothes and transportation to begin their life in the U.S. with the Florida relative. The tears that stained the face of the mother when Feliberto and Mica first encountered her at that bus station were transformed to tears of joy.

The journey of Carlos and his mother is like so many who leave loved ones to flee from Cuba. Ecuador is currently the only Latin American country for which a Cuban can get a tourist visa. From Ecuador they try to travel to the opportunity offered by asylum in the U.S. It requires a journey through pro-Castro Columbia, where refugees make their way through the dangers of the jungle to avoid police and bandits. Travel through Panama and Costa Rica is easier by comparison, then Nicaragua looms - another pro-Castro regime with significant dangers. On through Honduras to Guatemala. In many places, bribes are expected for granting sojourners safe passage.

As is often the case, mother and child started their journey from Ecuador as part of a larger group. During their time in detention at the Mexico/Guatemala border, many were deported back to Cuba. After release, and in their travel through Mexico, those remaining were robbed of all they had and separated in the chaos. What a sweet Valentine's Day to fall into the arms of the anniversary couple and their grandson Santiago.



We bet Mica will say it was one of the best Anniversaries EVER!!!

**MISSION STATEMENT for
SOUTHWEST GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRIES**

The Mission of Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries is to teach the love of Jesus Christ by building a renewed sense of wholeness and dignity and by standing with those who are broken, especially among refugees and those who are disenfranchised and displaced. The Good News of salvation is lived out by addressing spiritual and material needs, including emergency shelter and food, clothing, transportation, legal aid, advocacy and job referral through a cooperative effort with other agencies and religious organizations.

LILIES OF THE VALLEY TOUCH LIVES IN CREATIVE WAYS!

The Lilies ministry has become one of the best ministries in the Valley. Led by Guille Peralez this group of ladies work with other ladies and their children learning how to be wonderful humans, mothers, ladies and people loved by God. They encourage each other, teach each other, support each other and share their lives being the Body of Christ to each other.



We recently had a wonderful 20 person group from South Grand Lake Christian Church come to do all kinds of good and Godly works. Some worked on property improvements at Bayview. Some of the ladies joined the Lilies in sewing, cooking, child care work and more. Everyone involved fell in love, in love with each other, with the valley, with the fresh fruit coming off the trees, with God and God's call to love one another. We need groups like this to call and reserve a space so we can find the greatest need to meet, the best hurt to heal, the thing that will make God proud and Jesus famous as your group comes down in the spirit of Matthew 25.

Please prayerfully consider bringing a group to the valley to do some mission work. Please put Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in your Mission budget or on your Mission project radar. What if you got every family in your church to give the equivalent of 50 pounds of rice or beans?. You could bring them yourself and stay a week in the wonderful weather (we call it "suffering for Jesus!"), and you can do

deeds of kindness that fits your skills. Call us at 956-233-5198 and plan to come and visit!



When the group from South Grand Lake Christian Church came to do a week of Mission Work a lady came bearing clippers! Debbie was a retired beautician who had gone through some empty times and lately remarried a wonderful guy who got her to come on the trip. "What can I do?" she wondered? Not a builder or a plumber, she could make hair look beautiful. When Debbie went to a meeting of the Lilies of the Valley she saw lots of heads of beautiful hair....that needed a professional touch. Dozens of heads later (see the pile of hair at her feet), she knew why God had called her to the valley.

What gifts could you bring to the Valley?

STAY CONNECTED

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